

CELEBRATING PASTOR EDWARD L. BRANCH AND THE CONGREGATION OF THIRD NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Edward L. Branch and the congregation of Third New Hope Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan on the occasion of its 56th anniversary.

Over 50 years ago, Deacon John Cunningham and residents of Detroit came together in the fellowship of Christ to carry out the work of the Lord. Under its first leader, Pastor John L. Davis, the congregation found its first home on Carpenter Street in Detroit. As a testament to Pastor Davis' focus on missionary and outreach programs which guided lost souls, the congregation prospered and grew so extensively that Third New Hope had to move to a bigger space on Russell Street.

Following the departure of Pastor Davis in 1961, Third New Hope came under the ministry of Reverend G.P. Chapman. Reverend Chapman led the congregation with great passion, kindness and a strong conviction of faith. As a true servant to the Lord and his community, he was known as a compassionate man that, "would give you the shirt off his back." Under his guide, Third New Hope created a youth choir, usher board, nurses guild, and more social outreach programs. Again, in recognition of the strong spiritual bond of the congregation to its community, Third New Hope saw its congregation expand and had to find a new, larger home on Linwood Street.

In 1977, after 16 years of service, Reverend Chapman retired and the call to lead Third New Hope was heeded by Pastor Edward L. Branch. A young, energetic and spiritually inspired leader, Pastor Branch placed renewed emphasis on the fellowship of the congregation and serving the needs of the community. Under his tenure, the congregation expanded its outreach with the Heritage Center for African American Religious Studies, Men's and Women's Ministry, Marriage Ministry and Pastoral Care. In addition to moving to its current site on Plymouth Road in Detroit, Pastor Branch led a campaign to raise money for a community center, paved three parking lots near the church, established The Watchmen (a ministry of men who are aimed at protecting the community from harm) and expanded the church to a second location, the Third New Hope West Campus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the accomplishments of the congregation of Third New Hope Baptist Church in Detroit. Today, Third New Hope's two locations provide Metro-Detroit residents with spiritual guidance and vital social services. Over its 56-year history, the Church and its congregation's profound impact have been felt across our communities. I know that Third New Hope will continue to prosper under the leadership of Pastor Branch and I wish him and the congregation many more years of vibrant spiritual fellowship in Christ and service to the community.

**PROTECTING ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to recuse myself from consideration of H.R. 5, the Protecting Access to Healthcare, PATH, Act.

I have long supported medical liability reform as a way to control rising health care costs and save taxpayer money. I also have deep concerns regarding the establishment of the Independent Payment Advisory Board and the potential it has to restrict access to health care services. However, because of my holdings in at least two corporations that would benefit directly if H.R. 5 is enacted into law, I have concerns that my involvement could present a conflict with my private economic affairs. While my participation in legislative consideration of H.R. 5 would not appear to violate current House Rules and established precedent, I want to dispel any appearance of conflict. I therefore recuse myself from consideration of this legislation.

SUPPORT OF H. RES. 568

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 568, a bipartisan resolution reaffirming U.S. resolve to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability. I co-sponsored this resolution because of the critical importance to U.S. national security and regional stability to deny Iranian nuclear weapon capability through every diplomatic tool and pressure to avoid resorting to military force.

Reports of progress in Iran's nuclear program have been disconcerting. The November 2011 International Atomic Energy Agency report presented "serious concerns regarding possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme" and asserted that "Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear device."

There would be devastating consequences for a nation that has threatened Israel's existence and poses significant security threats to its neighbors to acquire nuclear weapons. As President Obama said during his January 24, 2012 State of the Union Address, "Let there be no doubt: America is determined to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

Since I entered Congress in 2007, I have stood firmly against nuclear proliferation to Iran. In 2010, I co-sponsored and supported through passage the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act, which enacted sanctions against companies

investing in Iran's energy sector. In addition, I am a cosponsor of legislation to expand sanctions against Iran, the Iran Threat Reduction Act (H.R. 1905).

It has been under President Obama's leadership and reinvigorated cooperation with allies and other nations that has ramped up the pressure to deny Iran weapons capability. President Obama entered office with the international effort to challenge Iran divided and in shambles. Immediately, the President rallied the international community to apply pressure in conjunction with the United States as a diplomatic force multiplier. Russia and China joined in a 2010 the U.N. Security Council comprehensive sanctions effort. These sanctions slowed the Iranian nuclear program and have levied damaging effects on the Iranian economy. The coalition held as we expanded a sanctions offensive against Iran's Central Bank and their oil exports.

These efforts make it clear that Iran must change its recent behavior and instead fulfill its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The longer it takes Iran to change its course, the further cut-off it will grow diplomatically and the more strangled its economy will become. Now we must expand these efforts to increase sanctions, further isolate Iran, and explore every outlet to undermine the Iranian regime politically and seek real change in that country's leadership and political direction.

This resolution communicates Congressional unity with the Administration and determination to the international community to maximize every diplomatic and economic tool available to pressure and deny Iran nuclear weapon capability. To be clear, other options—such as the use of United States military force against Iran—require the deliberate and thoughtful consideration of this Congress, a power which I believe this resolution clearly preserves. I am co-sponsoring this resolution to continue our nation's effective, ratcheting pressure to force Iran on a new path and to avoid a subsequent request from the Administration some day to authorize the use of military force against Iran.

HONORING LONG-TIME LOS ANGELES RESIDENT AND DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVANT: MS. IRENE PORTILLO

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Ms. Irene Portillo, who passed away on March 13, 2012, after a valiant battle with cancer. My heart goes out to her two children, Desiree Portillo Rabinov and Darren Rae Portillo; her son-in-law, Paul Rabinov; her grandchildren Paloma Irene and David Darren Rabinov; her brothers Henry Jr., Armando, Mario and Arturo Esparza; her nieces and nephews; and all of her family and friends.

Irene was an extraordinary citizen of the city and county of Los Angeles. Born and raised in East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights, she led a life dedicated to community service and improving the lives of her fellow Angelinos.